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STAT

December 1, 1983

Larry R. Strawderman, Information and Privacy Coordinator  
CIA  
Washington, D.C. 20505

RE: STAT  
STAT

Thank you for your response of 28 November on my request for the CIA files of Mr. Wilfred Burchett.

Also, thank you for the waiver of search fees in the "updated request," of 3 November. In that 3 November letter, I asked that you provide to me an estimate of the time that the review of Burchett files which is underway might be completed. I understand that your office hesitates to estimate such completions, generally, but I thought that because your letter of 31 October says the review was "nearing completion" that you might provide a reasonable estimate, say, of the approximate season, like fall, winter or spring, which would be general enough to allow you reasonable room for adjustments in administrative time tables. I would still appreciate that estimate of the time of release.

So much for production times. On the fee waiver, I appreciate your granting me a waiver of search fees, as the material written by me receives wide distribution to the general public, and hence benefits the public primarily. STAT

I would suggest that it is appropriate for the agency to waive the copy fees referred to in your letter of 28 November, as well as the search fee that you have waived. At this juncture it seems that it would be a mutual waste of our efforts to return to court to establish that which has already been won -- although I am thoroughly prepared to do so, should that be the way you wish to expend your offices' resources.

I am looking forward to your prompt reply.

Best,

STAT

28 NOV 1983

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Dear [REDACTED]

This is in response to your letter of 3 November 1983 concerning your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on Wilfred Burchett (our [REDACTED])

STAT

It will not be possible to give you an exact fee estimate of the copy fees. We have not yet determined how many pages will be released because the reviewing actions have not been completed. In any event, you would only be charged \$.10 a page for that material that is determined to be releasable.

We have contacted that component responsible for maintaining records on the subject of Mr. Burchett and it will attempt to locate any responsive documents that may have been created since the date of our last documents search, up to and including the date of this acceptance letter. In the event that such documents are located, we will attempt to review these and add them to those located and being reviewed in the initial request.

We will waive search fees in this updated request and notify you of the results when these become available.

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry R. Strawderman

Larry R. Strawderman  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

STAT

STAT

Nov. 3, 1983

Larry R. Strawderman, Information and Privacy Coordinator  
CIA  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Strawderman,

This is in reply to your letter of 29 September in request number [ ] in which you state that Mr. Burchett's file is located and now under review with completion in the near future, through 1978. You offer to release those files to me. However, you did not respond to my Sept. 29 request for an estimate of the copy fees nor to my request for an estimated date of release, both of which should be relatively easy for your office to ascertain since the files have been located and the review is "nearing completion," you say. I would appreciate a reply on those estimates at your earliest convenience.

STAT

I would suggest that since you are already processing and nearing completion a request for Burchett's files, you could process the post 1978 material simultaneously to ease the administrative burden, and thus release that material in a manner more closely approximating the statutorily prescribed time limit.

On the question of fee waiver, I would refer to the case [ ] pursuant to which the CIA granted me a fee waiver in the same subject area -- dissident press-- as this one. Do you wish me to resubmit a fee waiver letter complete with documentation reproducing what I've already submitted to the agency in that case? I'd be happy to, if it would ease the administrative burden on you.

STAT

Best,

STAT

31 OCT 1983

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Dear [redacted]

STAT

This is in reply to your letter of 29 September 1983 in which you requested, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), records and files from this Agency concerning the recently deceased Australian journalist, Wilfred Burchett.

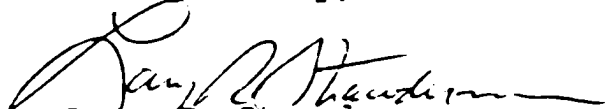
For your information, this Agency has been processing an earlier FOIA request on the same subject. We have ascertained that this case is nearing completion; documents have been located and are now being reviewed. We anticipate that the case should be completed in the near future. We would be happy to provide you the same documents that are released to that earlier requester. Your only charges would be the nominal \$.10 per page for those documents which are released. Enclosed is a copy of our fee schedule.

We should mention, however, that since the prior search was for the documents up through 1978 any additional documents created after 1978 would not be included among those being reviewed. We would suggest that any decision on the need of an updated search for any materials created after 1978 be held in abeyance until the earlier request on Burchett is finalized. We would note the date of your request and place it in the proper time sequence, should you believe it necessary to conduct an updated document search. Your case has been assigned request number [redacted]

STAT

Please notify us if these proposals meet with your approval.

Sincerely,



Larry R. Strawderman  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

STAT

IPD Registry

Sept. 29, 1983 STAT

Larry R. Strawderman, Information and Privacy Coordinator  
CIA  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Strawderman,

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act for records and all files concerning Mr. Wilfred Burchett, the noted journalist, who died September 27, 1983 in Sofia, Bulgaria, that are in the possession of the CIA, other than publicly-available material.

I request an estimate of fees and an estimated date on which the Agency will release its records to me on Mr. Burchett. STAT

I reserve the right to request a fee waiver.

I am awaiting your reply, which I trust will come within the statutorily prescribed length of time. STAT

Best,

P.S. Enclosed is The New York Times obituary on Mr. Burchett, to assist you in identifying the subject of this request.

NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1983



Associated Press

ulser Malafemmena yesterday from the waters of Boston Harbor.

## Statement Trial in Jersey

istant Camden County prose-  
nnis G. Wixted, had argued  
rences to the earlier slurs  
be barred because they  
an established bias over a  
time. The judge said he had  
em because "there was no  
as to when such remarks  
e, and I thought the probative  
outweighed by the prejudi-  
"

Hockfield, the defense attor-  
argued against permitting  
on of racial slurs as inflame  
e said that the death of the  
-old George DeCasanova, a  
his home on March 15 was  
a.

### Calls Death a Murder

seeks to prove it was inten-  
therefore murder. It seeks  
enalty, citing racial bias as  
ing factor.

ed did not lose all references  
emarks by the 20-year-old  
ar Judge Fluaharty's rulings.  
in the edited grand jury  
and March 17.

## Tino Rossi, 76, Singer, Recorded 2,000 Songs

PARIS, Sept. 27 (AP) — Tino Rossi, a French singing star who sold some 200 million records in a 50-year career, died of cancer today at his home in the suburb of Neuilly. He was 76 years old.

One of France's most popular entertainers, Mr. Rossi recorded 2,000 songs. His best-known hit was "Petit Papa Noël," which has sold 30 million records.

Mr. Rossi was born April 19, 1907 in Ajaccio, on the French-ruled island of Corsica, and began performing as a teen-ager at the casino there. He sang of his native island in "O Corse, Ile d'Amour." As a young man, he left Corsica for Marseilles, where he made his first record in 1933. The next year he went to Paris and began performing at the Casino de Paris. In 1938, Mr. Rossi toured the United States after his "Vieni, Vieni" stayed at the top of the American record charts for 28 weeks. He was inducted into the French Legion of Honor in 1982 by President François Mitterrand.

Mr. Rossi sang "Petit Papa Noël" for the first time in 1946, in the film "Destins." About 100,000 copies of the record are still sold each Christmas. His other hits included "La Cucaracha."

## Wilfred Burchett Is Dead at 72; Australian Was Leftist Journalist

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

Wilfred Burchett, an Australian journalist who for decades functioned as a Western spokesman for Communist regimes in Asia and Europe, died yesterday in Sofia, Bulgaria. He was 72 years old.

Beginning in the early 1950's, Mr. Burchett developed close relationships with the Communist leaders in Vietnam, Cambodia and China and wrote scores of articles that portrayed their governments in a favorable light.

He also screened requests for visits to some of the countries by Western journalists and often conducted the journalists on tours after they arrived.

Former American and allied soldiers who were prisoners of war in Korea said they had been interrogated by Mr. Burchett and that he was one of the first to report the now widely disbelieved accusations that the United States waged germ warfare in Korea.

### Source of Information

While Mr. Burchett was regarded by some as a Communist and a traitor, some officials of Western governments and some Western journalists also regarded him as a good source of information on otherwise inaccessible Communist governments.

Mr. Burchett's autobiography, "At the Barricades, Forty Years on the Cutting Edge of History," was published by Times Books two years ago.

In the introduction to the book, Harrison E. Salisbury, a former editor and reporter for The New York Times, wrote of Mr. Burchett:

"Burchett's conventional journalistic companions have found him a well-informed, useful source and a warm and decent friend. They almost always could check out a report or a rumor with Burchett regardless of whether it fitted Communist ideology or party propaganda. On most occasions they got a straightforward answer, one which was trustworthy and which stood the test of time. In written reportage, it might be a different story. Burchett was an advocate, and he wrote in support of the cause to which he adhered at a given moment."

When Western newspapers published articles by Mr. Burchett they sometimes identified him as a "leftist newsmen," or a journalist "with close connections with Communists." But often there was no political identification.

Mr. Burchett's son George said his father had been suffering from a liver ailment since last June when he fell ill on a trip to Asia.

Mr. Burchett was putting the finishing touches on a book called "The



United Press International

Wilfred Burchett

fice of Intourist, the Soviet tourist agency. The office soon closed and he worked for an agency set up to rescue Jews from Nazi Germany.

Before World War II started, Mr. Burchett returned to Australia to join the Government news and information agency. Then, in 1940, he set off as a free-lance journalist to New Caledonia, a French colony in the Pacific where pro-Free French forces had overthrown the local pro-Vichy authorities.

Coverage of this incident helped establish him as a journalist. He went to China, where he became a correspondent for The Daily Express of London.

He reported from throughout the Pacific for The Daily Express during the war. After Japan's surrender, while other journalists were sticking close to General Douglas MacArthur's occupation headquarters as it was established in Japan in August 1945, Mr. Burchett boarded a crowded train for Hiroshima and filed the first account of the devastation left by the atomic bomb.

### Covered Mindszenty Trial

After the war, Mr. Burchett worked for The Daily Express in Europe. In 1949 he covered the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary. "He handled the report of the trial skillfully," wrote Denis Warner, another Australian journalist, "By casting doubt on the nature of Hungarian justice, he established his objectivity in the minds of his readers and then proceeded to make the point that the Cardinal was guilty."

Mr. Burchett lived in North Vietnam, the Soviet Union in the

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